From: The IACP
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Greetings Jeremy Grimes

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

POLICING & POLICY

New Minnesota Law Bars Slower Drivers From Left Lane

The Minneapolis Star Tribune (6/1, Moore) reports, "Slower motorists in Minnesota best stick to the right lane – or face a possible fine come Aug. 1." According to the Star Tribune, "A measure aimed at drivers who linger in the left lane was signed into law last month, according to Sen. John Jasinski, R-Faribault, who sponsored the bill at the Capitol." The Star Tribune adds, "Those violating the new law could face a fine of $50, plus a $75 surcharge. 'It's something everyone can relate to,' Jasinski said. 'Everyone's been in that position, being behind someone in the left lane. It's frustrating.'" The Star Tribune notes, "While every state has a law requiring slower vehicles to move to the right lane, only about a dozen have full-fledged edicts that involve a financial penalty, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures."

New York City Hate Crime Prevention Office To Open Ahead Of Schedule

The Hill (6/4, Budryk) reports, "A New York office aimed at preventing hate crimes will open this summer, months ahead of schedule, Mayor Bill de Blasio's (D) office announced Tuesday." The Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes (OHPC) "will coordinate responses to hate crimes across various city agencies, including the district attorneys' offices, the Department of Probation, the police department, the Department of Education, the Commission on Human Rights and the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs, according to the announcement. 'The Office for the Prevention of Hate Crimes will work to root out hate and make our streets safer, which is why we're moving up the timeline and opening the office months ahead of schedule,' de Blasio, a 2020 presidential candidate, said in a statement." The OPHC "will also support training for the city's police department to address concerns specific to LGBTQ residents and immigrant communities and improve the reporting of hate crimes in addition to improving data collection and sharing between the police and the district attorneys' offices."

FBI To Provide Training To Kentucky Law Enforcement

WEVV-TV Evansville, IN (6/4, Hartman) reports, "The FBI will be providing training to Kentucky law enforcement officers." Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear "announced the training partnership between his office and the FBI to help pinpoint and link violent criminals in the state." In July, "the state's Cold Case Unit will host two intensive training sessions for detectives, homicide and sex crime investigators, and cold case and missing persons unit members." The training "will focus on the national Violent Criminal Apprehension Program (ViCAP), which maintains the largest investigative repository of major violent crime cases in the U.S." WTVQ-TV Lexington, KY (6/4) also reports.

British Columbia Panel Recommends Closer Cooperation Between Police, Mental Health Officials

The Vancouver (CAN) Sun (6/4, Bolan) reports, "Police across the province need to work closer with mental-health officials in assessing vulnerable people with whom they have contact, a new study by the B.C. Coroners Services says." According to the Sun, "The coroners' service put together a panel of experts that reviewed the deaths of 127 people who had contact with police

within the previous 24 hours and found two-thirds were struggling with mental-health and addiction issues." The panel's report, "Opportunities for Different Outcomes," "recommended improving co-ordination between health services and police, increasing access to mental-health assessment and using findings from police encounters for ongoing professional development."

Sioux Falls, South Dakota Police Cracking Down On Red Light Runners

The AP (6/4) reports that Sioux Falls, South Dakota police "are using new technology to help catch red light runners." According to the AP, "This spring, the city's traffic division installed what are being called 'red light enforcement beacons' at intersections in Sioux Falls where right light violations regularly occur." The AP adds, "The blue LED bulbs are mounted to backs of traffic signals and turn on when a light turns red." Sioux Falls Police Chief Matt Burns said "that it can be challenging for officers to safely enforce red light laws when they are not in traffic and unable to clearly tell if the light was red before a car entered the intersection."

By the Field, for the Field Assistance for Officer Safety and Wellness

Are you looking for resources on officer safety and wellness (OSW), or want help establishing an OSW program within your agency? The Collaborative Reform Initiative Technical Assistance Center (CRI-TAC) offers **no-cost**, customized technical assistance to state, local, tribal, territorial, and campus agencies. If you are interested in innovative and expert solutions and want to play an active role in the problem-solving process, request assistance now!

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CRIME & DRUGS

Portuguese Police Bust Human Trafficking Network

Reuters (6/4) reports from Lisbon, "A human trafficking network, which forced vulnerable women into sex work across Europe, has been dismantled by Portuguese authorities following a six-month investigation backed by Europol, police said on Tuesday." The operation, "codenamed El Pibe, led to the arrest of eight foreign nationals suspected of trafficking women for sexual exploitation, money laundering and belonging to an organized crime group, said Portugal's Immigration and Border Service SEF." According to Reuters, "As part of the operation, which took place in Portugal's northern region, SEF raided 12 homes and 12 vehicles, seizing jewelry, money and false documents." Two money transfer companies and a travel agency "were also searched." SEF "said in a statement that the traffickers, operating in Portugal and other European countries, used 'persuasion, manipulation and intimidation' to take advantage of around 20 vulnerable women with no financial means or family support."

Marijuana Oil Labs In US Pose Deadly Hazard

Reuters (6/4, Sullivan) reports from San Diego, "On the afternoon of May 5, college student John Nothdurft was watching TV at his suburban San Diego home when a series of explosions shook the house," and "around the corner, on Sunny Meadow Street, flames billowed from a neighbor's garage." Investigators "quickly determined the cause of the blaze: a butane-gas explosion resulting from an illegal attempt to make a concentrated form of marijuana" known as hash oil or honey oil, which "can be consumed in vape pens, candies, waxes and other forms that are increasingly popular." The explosion "illustrates a growing danger as marijuana moves from the counterculture to the mainstream, law enforcement officials told Reuters." Reuters notes, "With cannabis now legal for medical or recreational use in 33 states and the District of Columbia, users are discovering new ways of consuming the drug."

Joint Operation Leads To Significant Cocaine Seizure

The AP (6/4) reports more than $34 million worth of cocaine was seized after authorities "intercepted a Brazilian trawler in the Atlantic Ocean." The recent seizure was the result of a joint law enforcement operation that included law enforcement workers from Portugal and Brazil, as well as representatives of the "US Drug Enforcement Administration and Britain's National Crime Agency." Reuters (6/4, Demony) also covers this story.

Gunman Out On Parole Kills Four In Australia

The AP (6/4, Tucker, Palomino) reports from Melbourne, Australia, "A man who was out on parole was arrested after fatally shooting four men and wounding a woman in an hour-long downtown rampage Tuesday in the northern Australian city of Darwin, police said." According to the AP, "Police did not reveal a motive for the shotgun attack, but ruled out terrorism." The AP adds, "It was Australia's third mass shooting since the country introduced tough gun laws in response to a 1996 massacre in which a lone gunman armed with two semi-automatic assault rifles killed 35 people in Tasmania state. Mass shootings are usually defined as those resulting in at least four deaths excluding the shooter." In Tuesday's attack, "four men were killed and a woman was wounded at five places around Darwin, said Northern Territory Police Commissioner Reece Kershaw."

TECHNOLOGY

Man's DNA Linked To 1993 Murder Of Nine-Year-Old Girl

The St. Louis Post-Dispatch (6/4, Byers) reports, "Child molester. International internet child pornography king. Disgraced Air Force veteran. And now, prosecutors allege, a 61-year-old civilly committed inmate has another title: child killer." According to the Post-Dispatch, "Sources familiar with the case say his DNA links him to the murder of 9-year-old Angie Housman in 1993. The case sat cold for 25 years until a DNA test earlier this year connected him to the crime." The Post-Dispatch adds, "His life is extensively documented in court files, military records and media coverage of some of his previous arrests involving children, but the records are also unclear on some aspects of his history." The man "has not been charged in connection with the Housman case, so the Post-Dispatch is not naming him."

GAO: FBI Has Access To More Than 640 Million Photographs

The AP (6/4, Balsamo) reports that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) "says the FBI has access to about 640 million photographs – including from driver's licenses, passports and mugshots – that can be searched using facial recognition technology." According to the AP, the figure was reported by the GAO "at a congressional hearing in which both Democrats and Republicans raised questions about the use of the technology." The FBI "maintains a database known as the Interstate Photo System of mugshots that can help federal, state and local law enforcement officials." The database "contains about 36 million photographs, according to Gretta Goodwin of the GAO," but "taking into account the bureau contracts providing access to driver's licenses in 21 states, and its use of photos and other databases, the FBI has access to about 640 million photographs."

GLOBAL SECURITY

Prosecutor: UK Terror Suspects Had "Common Terroristic Purpose"

BBC News Online (UK) (6/4) reports, "Two men accused of planning acts of terrorism in the UK worked together 'for a common terrorist purpose', a court has heard." According to BBC News, "Sheffield Crown Court heard Farhad Salah, 24, of the Fatima Community Centre in Sheffield, planned to place explosives in a driverless car." Andy Star, 32, of Chesterfield, "is accused of being his 'willing and technical helpmate'." Both men, "who are Iraqi nationals, deny the charge." Prosecutor Anne Whyte QC "told jurors armed police searched both men's homes in December 2017 and over the course of several days a 'large number of individual items' were found," including "chemicals and powders which could be used to make explosive devices, improvised fuses and homemade fireworks."

ALSO IN THE NEWS

New York Police Honor Fallen Officers During Medal Day Ceremony

Newsday (NY) (6/4, DeStefano) reports, "One by one, grieving family members of fallen NYPD officers stood outside One Police Plaza on Tuesday morning to collect medals honoring their loves ones during what has become a solemn, yearly ritual." Newsday adds, "All 47 gold Distinguished Service medal recipients – including at least a dozen from Long Island – died in recent years from illnesses related to the attacks so it was left to their family members to stand in the brisk, unseasonably chilly June sunshine and receive the medals from Mayor Bill de Blasio and NYPD Commissioner James P. O'Neill." The NYPD "also bestowed 41 others awards, including the highest Medal of Honor, as well as the Police Combat Cross and Medal For Valor in the latest version of a venerable police tradition."

TUESDAY'S LEAD STORIES

- **Virginia Beach Officials Do Not Use Name Of Gunman**
- **UK Police Move Away From Arresting Homeless Individuals**
- **Police Departments Increasingly Turning Attention To Helping Officers Cope With Shooting Trauma**
- **Dark Net Drug Sales On The Rise In England**

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